



LOWER ROGUE WATERSHED COUNCIL

"Our purpose is to protect, enhance, and restore long-term natural resources and economic stability of the Lower Rogue Watershed by providing a coordinated, basin-wide approach to natural resource planning and management."

Lower Rogue Watershed Council
PO BOX 666
Gold Beach, OR 97444

April 14, 2023

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

As the Coordinator of the Lower Rogue Watershed Council, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to restore their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

Last year, we worked closely with the staff at Oregon Consensus (OC) through the work outlined in HB5006 (2021) to create a State-Supported Regional Water Planning and Management Work. We worked to develop a framework and path for state-supported water planning and management at the water region and/or basin level, considering regional water management opportunities that build on the 100-Year Water Vision and further the goals of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The OC staff were a pleasure to work with and provided multiple opportunities and intentional spaces for engagement and input throughout that entire process, in addition to connection within the work group. They lead with integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely, 

Kelly Timchak, Coordinator (Lower Rogue Watershed Council, Curry Watersheds Partnership)

C: Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Suzanne Weber
Representative Tracy Cramer
Representative Emily McIntire
Representative Hoa Nguyen
Representative Ricki Ruiz